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Application No. 10/056, 216

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The wheeled trimmer device of claim 17, wherein the ground contacting member has a curved ground engaging surface.
3. (Original) The wheeled trimmer device of claim 2, wherein the curved ground engaging surface includes a portion having a generally semispherical shape.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The wheeled trimmer device of claim 15 further including a frame on which the locking member is mounted and to which the carrier is connected.
7. (Currently Amended) The wheeled trimmer device of claim 5 further includes A wheeled trimmer, comprising:
a frame mounted on wheels;
a motor mounted on the frame; and

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a spindle depending from the frame at a position forward of the motor, the spindle operatively coupled with the motor for receiving rotary power and including a carrier for a cutting element and a ground engaging member, the carrier rotating with the spindle and ground contacting member being mounted to an end of the spindle in a manner to permit rotation of the ground contacting member independently of the spindle, the carrier for a cutting element being adjustably mounted to the spindle for permitting the carrier to be moved along the spindle;

a locking member for selectively engaging the spindle to lock the carrier against axial movement along the spindle and disengaging the spindle to permit axial movement of the carrier along the spindle; and

a manually depressible member for causing the locking member to disengage from the spindle.

8. (Currently Amended) The wheeled trimmer device of claim 7, wherein the locking member is biased to a locked position.

9. (Original) The wheeled trimmer of claim 7 wherein the locking member includes a sliding portion for selectively engaging any one of a plurality of slots to lock the carrier against axial movement.

10. (Cancelled)

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11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A wheeled vegetation trimmer, comprising:
a frame having a set of wheels and a handle extending from a rear portion of the frame;
a motor mounted on the frame;
a spindle depending from the frame at a position forward of the motor, the spindle operatively coupled with the motor for receiving rotary power;
a carrier for a cutting element and the carrier rotating with the spindle;
a locking member for selectively engaging the spindle and thereby cooperating with the spindle to lock the carrier against axial movement along the spindle, and for disengaging the spindle to permit movement of the carrier along the spindle; and
a manually depressible member for causing the locking member to disengage from the spindle.

13. (Original) The wheeled vegetation trimmer of claim 12, wherein the locking member is biased toward engaging the spindle.

14. (Previously Presented) A wheeled vegetation trimmer, comprising:
a frame having a set of wheels and a handle extending from a rear portion of the frame;
a motor mounted on the frame;

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a spindle depending from the frame at a position forward of the motor, the spindle operatively coupled with the motor for receiving rotary power;
a carrier for a cutting element and the carrier rotating with the spindle;
a locking member for selectively engaging the spindle and thereby cooperating with the spindle to lock the carrier against axial movement along the spindle, and for disengaging the spindle to permit movement of the carrier along the spindle; and
a frame on which the locking member is mounted for sliding toward and away from the spindle.

15. (Original) The wheeled vegetation trimmer of claim 14 further including a cylindrically shaped wall surrounding the spindle, through which extends a manually depressible member operatively connected for sliding the locking member out of engagement with the spindle.

16. (Original) The wheeled vegetation trimmer of claim 14, wherein the locking member includes plate with an elongated opening through which the spindle extends, one edge of the opening of the plate sliding into any one of a plurality of notches formed on the spindle when the locking member engages the spindle, and out of any of the plurality of notches when the locking member disengages from the spindle.

17. (Original) A trimmer, comprising:
a rotary power source mounted a frame supported by wheels;

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a spindle assembly depending from the frame, wherein said spindle assembly comprises,

a spindle shaft adapted to receive power from the rotary power source for rotation of the shaft, wherein said shaft includes a plurality of slots along an outer surface;

an adjuster assembly adjustably mounted on said shaft, wherein said adjuster assembly rotates with said shaft, and wherein said adjuster assembly comprises a locking plate for positioning said adjuster assembly along a length of said shaft by engaging said locking plate with a desired slot of said plurality of slots;

a string carrier attached to said adjuster assembly, wherein said string carrier includes a cutting line, and wherein by engaging said locking plate with a desired slot of said plurality of slots the distance of said cutting line from the ground can be adjusted, and

a ground contacting structure mounted to an end of said spindle shaft in a manner to permit independent rotation of said ground contacting member and said spindle shaft.

18. (Original) The trimmer of claim 17, further comprising a spring mechanism for biasing said locking plate toward engagement with one of the plurality of slots.

19. (Original) The trimmer of claim 17, wherein said ground contacting structure has a semispherical ground contacting surface.

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20. (Previously Presented) A wheeled trimmer, comprising:

- a horizontal frame with two wheels, mounted on opposite sides of the frame and
- near a rear end of the frame;
- a motor mounted on the frame;
- a handle attached to the frame and extending past the rear end of the frame at an angle for enabling a user to maneuver the trimmer while standing; and
- a spindle assembly depending from a front end of the frame, wherein said spindle assembly comprises:
 - a shaft capable of rotating about its axis, and wherein said shaft includes a plurality of slots along an outer surface of a length of said shaft;
 - a locking member mounted within a second frame for rotation with said shaft, wherein said locking plate operates to selectively engage any one of a said plurality of slots for positioning said frame along a length of said shaft;
 - a string carrier operatively connected to the frame to rotate with said shaft, wherein said string carrier includes a cutting filament and rotates with said shaft thereby causing trimming of vegetation, and whereby by engaging said locking plate with one of said plurality of slots the distance of said cutting filament from the ground can be adjusted; and
 - a ground contacting structure, wherein said ground contacting structure is attached to an end of said shaft for rotation about the axis of said shaft

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independently of said shaft, wherein the ground contacting structure includes a semispherical surface portion for contacting the ground.